

# Environmental Education Update

## July 2007

### Professional Development



#### **“Edutainment: Blending Creativity & Curriculum”**

*Monday, July 9th, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm*

*Location: Children’s Museum of Virginia*

*Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm*

*Registration: by phone, (757) 393-5258 Ext 17*

*Cost: \$10 per person per workshop or \$25 for all three; pre-registration is required;*

*Bring a bag lunch and dress for indoor and outdoor activities.*

Visual artist, John Grassmick, & performing artist, Corey Staten, will offer a variety of creative ideas that will make your classroom the hit of the hallways! Explore ways to incorporate simple arts & crafts, music & dance, and theater into your core subjects to jazz up your teaching style without taxing your time or breaking your budget. The certificate received may be applied toward Virginia State re-certification requirements and other certification requirements as approved by your principal/school board. Registration deadline is July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm.

#### **The Chesapeake Bay, Economics & The Environment**

***July 9-13, Longwood University***

Content pertains to **science and social studies** SOL and will make connections to civics and government. This class is a unique opportunity to gain valuable lessons for your classroom and to experience a field trip for yourself! The course will end with a field study at the Chesapeake Bay! This hands-on experience can be taken as a workshop for \$125.00 or for graduate credit at the standard Longwood University graduate course rate. **SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!** Please call Diana Shores at 434-395-2461 to learn more, or to reserve a spot!!! [http://www.vanaturally.com/pdf/cb\\_economics.pdf](http://www.vanaturally.com/pdf/cb_economics.pdf)

#### **Project WET (K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers)**

*Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm*

*Location: Children’s Museum of Virginia*

*Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm*

*Registration: by phone, (757) 393-5258 Ext 17*

*Cost: \$10 per person per workshop or \$25 for all three; pre-registration is required;*

*Bring a bag lunch and dress for indoor and outdoor activities.*

**Project WET is a supplementary environmental education program that focuses on Water related topics: atmospheric water, surface and ground water, cultural and historical use of water, and contemporary & local water management issues. The interactive workshop will offer exciting new teaching ideas for use in science, math, social studies, language arts, physical education, music and art. Each participant will receive a copy of the world famous, teacher-tested *Project WET Curriculum* and Activity Guide – containing over 90 lesson plans; a boatload of resource materials; and hands-on activities. The certificate received may be applied toward Virginia State re-certification and other certification requirements as approved by your principal/school board. For more information about Project WET, visit [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org) or [www.deq.state.va.us/education/wet.html](http://www.deq.state.va.us/education/wet.html). Registration deadline is July 17<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.**

**Project Learning Tree (K-8th Grade Teachers)**

*Monday, August 13, 9 am – 3:30 pm*

*Location: Children's Museum of Virginia*

*Time: 9:00 am – 3:30 pm*

*Registration: by phone, (757) 393-5258 Ext 17*

*Cost: \$10 per person per workshop or \$25 for all three; pre-registration is required;*

*Bring a bag lunch and dress for indoor and outdoor activities.*

Project Learning Tree is an internationally developed conservation education program of the American Forest Foundation, sponsored through the Virginia Department of Forestry. This SOL-correlated program provides educators with a variety of activities from games to research-styled projects on a range of topics from forests to wildlife, community planning to energy management. Each participant will receive a copy of the PreK – 8 Project Learning Tree Activity Guide along with the practical, hands-on experience gained through participation in the workshop. Activities are cross-curricular and easily adapted for students through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade and in non-formal educational formats. The certificate received upon completion of the training may be applied toward Virginia State re-certification requirements and other certification requirements as approved by your principal/school board. For more information about Project Learning Tree, visit [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) or <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/plt/>. Registration deadline is August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

**NSTA New Science Teacher Academy**

**Deadline: September 30, 2007**

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) program is designed to encourage and support new middle and secondary school science educators in their first few years of teaching. This professional development initiative was created to help strengthen quality science teaching, enhance teacher confidence and classroom excellence, and improve teacher content knowledge. <http://www.nsta.org/academy/>

**Come to the Coast: NAAEE Conference – Explore New Horizons in Environmental Education**

**November 14-17, Virginia Beach Conference Center**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1st!**

To register before July 1st, visit: <http://www.naaee.org/conference/registration>

and download the two-page registration form, complete it, and fax or mail to our offices.

*There is a \$10.00 administrative fee for all mailed or faxed conference registrations. NAAEE encourages you to use the online system after July 1st if at all possible. [More >>](#)*

# Grants & Scholarships

**Weekly Grants for Young People**

**Do Something and GameStop** are offering grants of \$500 each to young people, in the U.S. or Canada, with an idea for community-action projects that need support to turn their idea into reality.

[http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop\\_grants](http://www.dosomething.org/gamestop_grants)

**Do Something and Plum TV** are offering grants of \$500 each to young social entrepreneurs, in the U.S., who have recently created a sustainable project, program, or organization and need funding to further the growth and success of their program. [http://www.dosomething.org/plum\\_youth\\_grant\\_application](http://www.dosomething.org/plum_youth_grant_application)

# Awards & Contests

## **Photography Contest**

**Deadline: July 30, 2007**

NAAEE seeks photos that will inspire people to achieve environmental excellence in this contest established in partnership with the Albert I. Pierce Foundation. The winning photos will show how the visual arts can create a kinesthetic and emotional connection to the Earth. The photography contest is one element of a larger effort by NAAEE to re-invigorate the use of arts and culture in the EE field.

<http://www.naaee.org/conference/2007-our-world-photography-contest>

# Curriculum Tools

## **Encyclopedia of Life**

Supported by grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the "Encyclopedia of Life" is a global effort to document all 1.8 million named species of animals, plants, and other forms of life on Earth. The encyclopedia will be a multimedia Wikipedia-style Web site, providing downloadable information on each species. The Field Museum, Harvard University, the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Biodiversity Heritage Library partnered to launch the project. [See Demo >>](#) <http://www.eol.org>

## **How Was the Greenest Building Built?**

The Common Fire Housing Co-op is the first Platinum building in New York State and the "Greenest" building in the Eastern USA, as certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. This site provides an in-depth approach to the concept and need for green building as well as the details of the Common Fire project. It also provides a specific link for educators, with a teacher's guide to the site.

[www.commonfire.org/community/greenwelcome.html](http://www.commonfire.org/community/greenwelcome.html)

## **Birds of North America Online**

From the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Birds of North America Online is a comprehensive reference for life history information on over 700 different bird species that breed in the U.S. and Canada. Includes photo galleries, vocalizations, updated text, and video for many species. Subscription required.

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>

## **EnergyTeachers.org**

An online community for educators to share ideas about energy-related curriculum, including topics about the environmental impact of energy production and use. <http://energyteachers.org>

## **SustainabilityForum.com**

An online sustainability community with news and information on topical issues such as climate change, corporate responsibility, sustainable living, and jobs. <http://www.sustainabilityforum.com/forum>

## **Kids "Create Your Future"**

Created by Japan for Sustainability, a Japanese NGO providing information on the environment to more than 170 countries, the "Create Your Future" Web site is full of ideas for kids to investigate how they can improve the environment including "Ways to Create an Eco-Friendly Lifestyle," and "How to Create a City Without Automobiles," and more. <http://www.kidsforfuture.net/index.php>

### **Campus Climate Agreement**

On June 12, 2007, college and university presidents from 284 institutions officially committed to, within two years, devise plans for greenhouse gas elimination on their campuses. The agreement also requires annual progress reporting with implementation to be overseen by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. <http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>

### **Environmental Articles**

This useful resource contains a growing database of environment articles relating to renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, and geothermal energy. <http://www.clean-energy-ideas.com/articles>

### **Watch Videos & Chat With Sanctuary Sam**

NOAA has teamed up with SeaWorld to bring education about the marine sanctuaries to kids by using myspace.com, youtube.com, and flickr.com, etc.

- <http://www.youtube.com/sanctuaries>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8765362@N06/>
- <http://www.myspace.com/sanctuariesam>

### **New Toolkit for Biodiversity**

Developed by the World Conservation Union Commission on Education and Communication (IUCN CEC) the new Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) Toolkit for Biodiversity provides practical tools for practitioners and professionals promoting biodiversity. <http://www.cepatookit.org/>

### **Global Warming Virtual Courseware**

Web site provides high-school and college-level science educators virtual courseware with self-guided tutorials and instructional resources. Other thematic resources are also available. <http://www.sciencecourseware.org/eec/GlobalWarming/>

### **United Nations Climate Change Publications**

Publications on climate change are one of United Nations' actions undertaken to achieve Millennium Development Goals set by world leaders in September 2000. Order online. <https://unp.un.org/>

### **Electronic Naturalist**

Check out Electronic Naturalist for free, weekly EE materials on two reading levels (K-3 and 4-8). Subject areas include animals, plants, and current environmental issues, plus offering email access to professional naturalists. <http://www.enaturalist.org>

### **Greenedia Environmental Blogs**

Greenedia offers "green" expert blogs, videos, and podcasts covering 37 different categories including alternative energy, global warming, hybrid cars, and green investing. <http://www.greenedia.com/>

### **Geology.com - Earth Science on the Web**

Published by a professional geologist, Geology.com offers a wealth of information, including a geology dictionary, news, 160+ country maps, hundreds of satellite images, and 250 U.S. state maps. <http://geology.com>

### **Exploring Natural Connections**

New Book by Kestrel Educational Adventures EE Organization in Massachusetts, *Exploring Natural Connections*, is a collection of teaching tools, games and activities for K-10 students, and group building initiatives, making it ideal for both the classroom and outdoor settings. <http://www.kestreleducation.org>

### **Global Greenhouse Warming**

Web site contains over 100 informative pages on climate change; including sections on greenhouse gases, extreme weather events, alternative and renewable energy, polar caps, climate and society, sea level rise,

ocean acidification, and actions that can be undertaken to reduce global warming. <http://www.global-greenhouse-warming.com/>

### **Healthy Sprouts Awards**

**Deadline: October 15, 2007**

The National Gardening Association Healthy Sprouts Award helps support the growth of health-focused school and youth garden programs that teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the U.S. To be eligible, a school or organization must plan to garden in 2008 with at least 15 children, ages three to eighteen.

<http://assoc.garden.org/>

### **National Public Lands Day**

**September 29, 2007**

Lend a hand for the 14th annual coast-to-coast effort to clean up public lands to help preserve America's lands. The focus this year will be on countering the tide of invasive species taking over habitats and native species.

<http://www.publiclandsday.org/>

### **Where the Buffalo Roam Podcast**

Produced by students of the Teton Science Schools' Graduate Program, "Where the Buffalo Roam" podcasts explore Jackson Hole, Grand Teton National Park, and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The shows are free and intended for students, educators, and anyone interested in learning more about the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. <http://www.tetonscience.org/blogs/GS/>

### **The Real Dirt on Farmer John**

**Release Date: June 22, 2007**

This new film *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, documents over five decades, the demise of one man's farm and its resurrection through organic and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farming. CAVU Pictures, Inc., an independent film production and distribution company is releasing the film nationwide on June 22nd in New York with dates to follow in Seattle, Arlington, Houston, Dallas, Los Angeles, and other theaters throughout the country. <http://www.farmerjohnmovie.com/Home.html>

### **PLT and Earth & Sky**

Combine the power of radio, the Internet, and Project Learning Tree activities to enhance learning in the classroom. Earth & Sky produces short daily radio shows on a range of environmental topics. These 90-second shows can also be downloaded for free from the Internet and many are correlated to Project Learning Tree (PLT) activities.

Both Web sites provide a wealth of additional resources for educators and students for each radio show and PLT activity:

- [Access on Earth & Sky >>](#)
- [Access on PLT Web site >>](#)

### **New Field Guide for Educators: No Student Left Indoors**

By Jane Kirkland, author and publisher of the award-winning Take A Walk® series of nature adventure books. *No Student Left Indoors: Creating a Field Guide to Your Schoolyard*, is a guide for K-8 grade teachers to create an interdisciplinary nature-study in any schoolyard. Stillwater Publishing, June 2007.

<http://www.takeawalk.com>

### **Sea Stories Online Journal**

Feed your imagination with the just-released Vernal 2007 issue of *Sea Stories*, an online journal of creative writing and art by ocean-lovers from all backgrounds and walks of life. Educators are invited to use *Sea Stories* in the classroom or as a publishing opportunity for themselves or their students. <http://www.seastories.org>